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Why Israel Fiercely Opposes Nuclear Deal With Iran

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Report **T** U.S. warships sail in Taiwan Strait

The United States has escalated tensions with China after two American navy warships sailed through the country's Taiwan strait, the first time since U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's controversial visit to Taiwan.

In response to the latest provocative act, China's military issued a statement saying it was monitoring the vessels, maintaining a high alert, and ready to defeat any provocations.

According to the U.S. Navy, the operation involved the dispatching of guided-missile cruisers USS Antietam and USS Chancellorsville.

The U.S. 7th fleet claimed "The ships' transit through the Taiwan Strait demonstrates the United States' commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific... The United States military flies, sails, and operates anywhere international law allows."

The U.S. has failed to acknowledge that its warships are near Chinese land. Critics say this ignorance and provocations are at the heart of the dispute.

Such provocations are closely monitored by China's military. Over the years U.S. warships, and on occasion those from Washington's allies such as the United Kingdom and Canada, have sailed through the strait.

Pelosi made her provocative visit to the Taiwan region a month ago showing total disregard to China's warnings not to go ahead with the trip and disrespecting the one-China principle. ► Page 5

Report **T** Caspian Sea wetlands imperiled

By Faranak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN – The receding water of the Caspian Sea has imperiled the coastal wetlands around the enclosed water body, and provided the ground for taking over the dried-up lands for change of use, so its protection requires comprehensive coastal management.

One of the important issues in maintaining the dynamics of the largest lake in the world is the coastal wetlands affected by it, which are affected by the fluctuations of the Caspian water level, especially the wetlands in the southern part, such as Gomishan, Miankaleh, and Gorgan Bay.

Another point is that the coastal wetlands of Gilan province are also affected by the Caspian Sea, which plays a significant role in their health and stability. These wetlands are fed by both fresh and salty water sources of the Sea, such as the Anzali Wetland.

Also, other wetlands are located in the eastern and northwestern part of the Caspian Sea, such as the Qarebaghaz wetland, with an area of 40,000 square kilometers, and has progressed towards complete aridification, and if the level of the Caspian Sea reaches minus 29, unfortunately, Qarebaghaz and Astrakhan Wetlands will face depletion.

Homayoun Khoshrovan, a member of the board of directors of the Iranian Coastal and Marine Structural Engineering Association (ICOMSEA), told IRNA on Sunday that in order to preserve the Caspian Sea and its wetlands, a comprehensive coastal management plan is needed, which unfortunately does not exist in the country. ► Page 7



IRCS forces dispatched to Iraq for Arbaeen

TEHRAN – The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) dispatched a total of 44,000 rescuers and medical staff to provide services for the Arbaeen pilgrims.

Some 40,000 rescuers are on duty inside the eastern and northern borders and the communication axes of the western borders, and the rest, which include 2,800 medical personnel and 1,200

rescuers, are sent to Iraq, IRCS head Pir-Hossein Kolivand said.

In addition, 50 ambulances, 6 ambulance buses, rescue vehicles, and medicine trucks were also sent to the region, he added.

The Arbaeen pilgrimage, which is one of the larg-

est religious gatherings in the world, comes 40 days after Ashura, the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS), the third Imam of Shia Muslims, and the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Each year, a huge crowd of people flocks to Karbala, where the holy shrine of Imam Hussein (AS) is located, to perform mourning rituals.

Iran gas revenues increase 64% in a year

TEHRAN – The managing director of National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) has said the country's gas revenues have increased by 64 percent since the current government took office last August, IRNA reported.

"An 11 percent increase in gas exports to

Turkey and the continuation of negotiations to increase exports, the collection of about \$1.6 billion of Iran's gas dues from Iraq, and a 138 percent increase in gas swaps are among other measures taken to promote energy diplomacy in the 13th government," Majid Chegeni said on Sunday.

Speaking at a ceremony for inaugurating several gas projects on the occasion of Government Week, Chegeni noted that over the past year Iran has reached a new record in gas condensate exports and the country has been established as a major player in the region's gas market. ► Page 4

Iran will conclude study of US response to EU nuclear text by Friday: report

TEHRAN – At least until the end of Friday, Iran will conclude a review of the United States' response to the European Union's draft text intended to revive the 2015 nuclear deal, a news website close to Iran's Supreme National Security Council said in a tweet on Sunday.

Nour News said the detailed examination of the U.S. response is going on at expert levels.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell submitted its text, which was described as final, on August 8. Iran gave its response to the text on August 15, which was described as "reasonable" by Borrell.

However, the U.S. gave its response on August 24. Iran received the U.S. response through the EU.

Signing agreements worth \$700m, result of Iran's presence in MIMS Automobility Moscow

TEHRAN – The head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) said that signing agreements worth \$700 million was the result of Iran's presence in MIMS Automobility Moscow 2022 (held at Moscow Expo Center during August 22-25).

Alireza Peyman-Pak has considered Iran's presence in the Moscow automobile exhibition as a serious start for great cooperation between Iran and Russia in the field of automobile manufacturing and more importantly

in the fields of supply and export of automobile parts.

The international exhibition's inaugural ceremony had been attended by Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation Albert Karimov, Iranian Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade Reza Fatemi-Amin, and Iranian Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali.

According to Peyman-Pak, "Automobile sector", "auto parts" and "automobile value



Libya sees deadly clashes

Deadly fighting broke out between what is strongly believed to be forces loyal to rival governments in Libya; raising fears a bigger conflict breaking out eleven years after NATO attacked the country.

According to medical officials, at least 32 people have died in the latest bout of violence and some 159 others have sustained injuries during the unrest. ► Page 5

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Interview **T**

Ex-Iran player Dinmohammadi happy with level of league

By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN – Former Iran midfielder Sirous Dinmohammadi praised the level of the current season of the Iran Professional league (IPL).

According to Ex-Esteghlal player, most of the teams have good players in their squads.

"We are watching attractive matches every game," said Dinmohammadi in his interview with Tehran Times.

"As the games are played weekly, the quality level of the matches also increases. The main reason for the attraction of the matches, in my opinion, is that the star players are almost evenly distributed among the teams, and it is no longer the case that only one or two teams are full of stars," added the former national football team player.

When asked about the teams which have the chance to win the league, Dinmohammadi answered: "Persepolis and Esteghlal are favorites to win IPL, with Sepahan having the second-best chance to win the 2022/23 season trophy.

"I've watched the games so far, and I think that Sepahan are very powerful and play tactical and technical football at the level of a champions.

"Sepahan have had a strong start to the season, and although Gol Gohar held them in the third game week, they will look to continue their powerful run in the upcoming weeks," said the former player of Mainz 05.

"Esteghlal have not yet shown themselves as the defending champions, but I'm sure that under the Portuguese coach, Ricardo Sá Pinto, they will find their best form soon," he said.

"Foolad and Gol Gohar are other strong teams that can fight for the title in the current season. Moreover, the other league teams are well-prepared, and most have enough financial sources to strengthen their sides," Dinmohammadi concluded.

Iran's "Unrest" crowned best short at Moscow documentary festival

TEHRAN – Iranian short "Unrest" has been named best short at the Moscow International Documentary Film Festival – Doker.

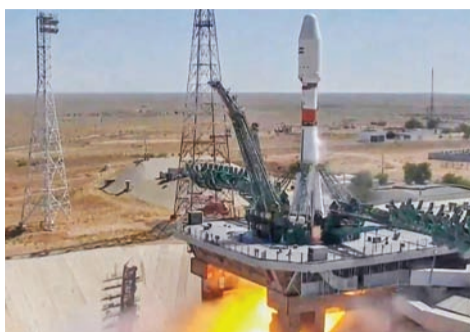
Directed by Mohammad-Sadeq Esmaeili, the film is about a 14-year-old teenager who runs away from the house of his addicted father who forces him to live in an orphanage. Now he is trying hard to find his absent mother just for the first time. Additionally, he does not have an ID card and this is causing many problems in his daily life.

Five other Iranian films were screened at the Russian festival, but they failed to win an award as winners were announced last week.

A jury composed of Vladimir Golovnev from Russia, Camila Rodriguez Triana from Columbia and Fariz Ahmedov from Azerbaijan selected the winners of the short competition.

"Adjusting" by Dejan Petrovic from Serbia, "Zeneru" by Andrea Grasselli from Italy and "The Dream #9-2380 (IK-6)" by Lidia Rikker from Russia won special mentions in this section. ► Page 8

Iran intends to launch 100–500-kilogram satellites soon



TEHRAN - The chief of the Iranian Space Agency (ISA) has praised positive advancements in orbit technology, announcing that Tehran plans to launch satellites weighing up to 500 kilograms into space on the back of locally manufactured carriers within years.

Hassan Salarieh said Iran is aiming to improve its domestic rockets for launching satellite carriers, and in four years it expects to be able to launch satellites weighing up to 500 kilograms into orbit.

By March 20, 2023, the end of the current Persian calendar year, Iran will probably be able to launch 100-kilogram satellites into an orbit that is 500 meters above the surface of the Earth, Salarieh said.

He added, "Efforts will continue, and God willing, we will launch a 200-kilogram satellite next year. In four years, we will launch 500-kilogram satellites."

The ISA chief said that several experiments were being carried out as part of the nation's "systematic plan" to advance the space industry.

Salarieh continued, "Many of the Iranian-made satellites can be launched and deployed into orbit on Iranian-made carriers since they are lightweight."

He said the government is now developing a number of satellites at home, and the

restricted capacity of domestic carriers may not allow the launch of all types of satellites into orbit within a year, for example. This, however, does not imply that Iran would not employ foreign launcher rockets, he pointed out.

The Iranian satellite named "Khayyam" was launched into orbit in the middle of August using a Russian Soyuz-2.1b carrier rocket from the Baikonur Cosmodrome.

ISA verified that all of the Khayyam satellite systems were operating accurately.

Iran's borders will be monitored using imagery from Khayyam, and the nation's management and planning capacities in the areas of agriculture, natural resources, environment, mining, and natural catastrophes will also be improved.

Issa Zarepour, the Iranian Minister of Communications and Information Technology, has said Moscow and Tehran have decided to continue their aeronautical collaboration.

Despite U.S. sanctions, Iran has made enormous technological and scientific advancements in recent years.

Early in June, ISA revealed that preparations for the launch of seven additional satellites into orbit had begun.

Iran conducted a second test of its homegrown Zuljanah hybrid-propellant satellite carrier rocket in late June for predetermined scientific purposes. In February 2021, the Zuljanah satellite carrier was first sent into space by the Defense Ministry.

The latest developments in the aerospace sector will be revealed in the future, according to President Ebrahim Raisi.

He said during the August cabinet meeting that "the nation will see unprecedented space accomplishments in the future."

Iran, Russia, China targets of U.S. misinformation effort: report

TEHRAN- Recent studies have uncovered material about what appears to have been the ongoing U.S. disinformation campaigns on social media sites directed towards Iran, Russia, and China, as well as the usage of dozens of bogus accounts to spread pro-Western narratives.

In a study conducted by researchers from the Stanford Internet Observatory and the research company Graphika, it was found that pro-U.S. covert influence operations utilized deceptive techniques to sway public opinion in West Asia and Central Asia for over five years.

The accounts running the activities posted articles in at least seven languages, including Farsi, Russian, Arabic, and Urdu, and frequently pretended to be news organizations or to be persons who weren't real.

Some of the accounts posted links to websites maintained by the U.S. military as well as news pieces from media organizations financed by Washington, such as Voice of America and Radio Free Europe.

The country of origin of the accounts, according to Meta, which owns Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp, was the United States, while according to Twitter, the presumptive countries of origin for the accounts were the United States and Britain.

The study also stated that in July and August, when the fraudulent pro-U.S. influence campaign was being promoted, Twitter and Meta erased hundreds of phony accounts.

The Russian social media networks VKontakte and Odnoklassniki, Google's YouTube, and Telegram were all utilized in the activities.

According to YouTube, multiple channels that were promoting U.S. foreign policy in Arabic, Farsi, and Russian, as well as channels connected to a U.S. consulting

business, were removed. Based on the researchers, the accounts used regionally specific language and message.

Between November 2020 and June 2022, a total of 21 Twitter accounts, six Instagram accounts, five Facebook profiles, and two Facebook pages allegedly targeted Iranian audiences.

It was revealed that several of the aliases had possibly artificial intelligence-generated profile images.

Many made an effort to appear authentic by sprinkling poems and images of Persian cuisine with political messaging.

Numerous posts on Facebook and Instagram also unfairly contrasted chances for Iranian women with those available to women abroad.

In addition, 12 Twitter accounts, 10 Facebook pages, 15 Facebook profiles, and 10 Instagram accounts were made with a Central Asian concentration between June 2020 and March 2022.

These accounts subsequently posted articles that sharply denounced Russia's military campaign in Ukraine and supported anti-Russian demonstrations taking place in Central Asian nations.

Another set of reports honed down on West Asia, praising U.S. efforts in Iraq and using encounters between U.S. troops and Syrian children to support Washington's occupation of Syrian territory and theft of the natural riches of the Arab nation.

The research shows that none of the propaganda tactics were successful in reaching a sizable audience.

Only 19% of the discovered covert accounts had more than 1,000 followers, and the majority of posts and tweets only garnered a handful of likes or retweets.

The study is one of the most thorough evaluations to date of a covert, pro-U.S. influence campaign, according to Shelby Grossman, a member of the research team that published the report.

Top commander: Iranian radar system detecting all enemy movements

TEHRAN- Commander of the Iranian Air Defense Force has emphasized the Islamic Republic's great military might and deterrent capacity and asserted that the Air Defense Force can track even the smallest moves of adversaries within a range of 3,000 km.

Brigadier General Alireza Sabahifard said the Air Defense Force is now outfitted with radars with a range of 3,000 kilometers, which is uncommon in the globe.

"The Air Defense Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran has taken significant steps in recent years to strengthen national security," General Sabahifard stated.

The senior commander went on to say, "Now we have reached a position where we openly declare that all the equipment and systems employed are produced by brilliant Iranian youngsters and we do not use any equipment from elsewhere."

The enemies could never have imagined Iran's deterrence strength would be this strong, he said, adding that any breach of Iranian airspace will result in a "severe and catastrophic retribution."

"If the adversaries could strike us, they would render the



Islamic Republic of Iran's airspace insecure, but they never can," Sabahifard pointed out.

And this is because of the military's ability to discourage potential attackers and its arsenal of weapons, he remarked.

The top commander pointed out that Iranian drones are capable of being equipped with high-speed rate needed to attack the targets.

Iranian military authorities emphasize that Tehran's ability to repel its adversaries has caused them to be more circumspect in their moves and that all of their assets are within the range of Tehran's weaponry. They caution that if Iran had malicious intents,

it was capable of attacking the enemy's sensitive and important interests anywhere.

Iran has achieved self-sufficiency in the production of key military systems and equipment in recent years and has made significant advancements in the defense industry.

In September, the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Defense Force (IRIADF) presented Alborz, a homegrown version of a cutting-edge 3D radar that can identify and intercept long-range stealth flying objects with a small radar cross-section.

According to reports, the system can identify 300 targets

at once and has a range of 450 kilometers (248 miles).

Later, the IRIADF presented the Kashef-99 (Discoverer-99) 3D phased-array radar system, which can see tiny flying objects.

According to reports, Kashef-99 has a detection range of 12 kilometers and can simultaneously find hundreds of targets (7.4 miles).

Khalij-e Fars (Persian Gulf) and Muraqeb (Observer), two indigenously developed strategic phased-array radar systems, were launched by Iran in April of last year at the presence of General Sabahifard and Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi, the commander of the Iranian Army.

The long-range and strategic Khalij-e Fars radar is a 3D phased-array system. It can detect both conventional and radar-eluding objects, as well as ballistic missiles, and has a detection range of more than 800 kilometers (497 miles).

Muraqeb can track small targets at low and intermediate altitudes, as well as drones and flying objects that avoid radar, and it has an operational range of 400 kilometers (248 miles).

NPT conference's final draft text leaves no chance for modification: Iran



TEHRAN- An Iranian Foreign Ministry official on Saturday voiced objection to the final draft text of the United Nations nuclear disarmament pact, stating that since it is dominated by Western nations, there is no chance for a change in the status quo.

Asadollah Eshraq Jahromi, the director general for international peace and security at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, made the comments at the conclusion of the Tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which had started at the UN headquarters in New York on August 1.

"Our assessment is that the current draft of the final document leaves no hope for changing the status quo and making some concrete progress towards nuclear disarmament," he underlined.

Eshraq Jahromi emphasized the necessity for nuclear powers to provide security guarantees to

non-nuclear states. However, he issued a warning against the three nuclear armed members of NATO - the U.S., the UK, and France - for dominating the debate with their dangerous attitudes on the matter.

The goal of the NPT is to stop the spread of nuclear weapons, advance full disarmament, and foster cooperation for peaceful use of nuclear energy. Every five years, the NPT is reviewed by its 191 members.

Russia prevented the acceptance of the conference's final draft on Friday by criticizing what it called "political" elements of the document.

Igor Vishnevetsky, the Russian envoy, stated: "Our delegation has one major concern on several passages which are plainly political in character."

As Moscow and Kiev continue to accuse one another of bombarding the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant, the most recent draft text has voiced "grave concern" over military activity near the Ukrainian nuclear power plants.

Vishnevetsky said that other nations have concerns about the draft text in addition to Russia.

Eshraq Jahromi also reiterated the Islamic Republic's policy that Iran places a high priority on the creation of a West Asian region free of nuclear weapons.

He regretted that Iran had not participated in the "non-transparent" and "non-inclusive"

process that resulted in the draft text.

The NPT review conferences held in 2000 and 2010 emphasized the necessity for the Israeli regime to ratify the NPT in order to achieve the treaty's objectives in West Asia but this is ignored in the final text this year, he regretted.

"The current text on West Asia has failed to retain what had been accomplished in previous conferences or reflect the events that have taken place since 2010, only because of Washington's hostility," he said.

"The review conference should not hide the basic fact that the Israeli regime is the only party in West Asia that has not joined the NPT and refuses to place its nuclear facilities under the International Atomic Energy Agency's comprehensive safeguards regime," Jahromi remarked.

He went on to say that "in addition, Israel, with the help and support of the United States, is blocking all serious international efforts to create a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in West Asia."

Majid Takht Ravanchi, Iran's outgoing ambassador to the UN, lashed out at Israel's refusal to ratify the NPT in similar remarks on Friday. He stated that during the review conference, the Islamic Republic made it clear that it would not budge from its position on the significance of a West Asia free of weapons of mass destruction.

Military technology steps up Iranian deterrence: Parliament speaker

TEHRAN- The Speaker of the Iranian Parliament has stressed that military technology is the source of increased deterrent capability and promoting the nation's spirit and dignity.

Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf made the comments while inspecting a military industry expo at the Defense Industries Organization on Saturday.

Brigadier General Mohammad-Reza Gharraei Ashtiani, the defense minister, and a few of his ministry's directors were addressed by the speaker, who expressed gratitude on behalf of everyone for the defense equipment that have

increased deterrent power.

"We are also proud of our self-sufficiency, which raises national confidence among the Iranian people, and the military sector is an example of the country's progress as envisaged based on the objectives of the Islamic Revolution," the speaker remarked.

The head of the legislative branch went on to say that the defensive doctrine of the Islamic Republic is based on maintaining peace and stability as well as defending underdeveloped countries.

"... we do not seek expansionism, but we will retaliate firmly against any malign act and invasion,"



Qalibaf pointed out.

He went on to say that as has been observed all over the world, significant advancement, platform changes, and use of new technologies occur in armed forces and military sectors of the countries, and that knowledge and cutting-edge technology are subsequently passed on to other sectors.

Qalibaf, a former military commander, emphasized that the foundation of the Islamic Republic's defense is based on the people's support, and that the adversaries of the nation are well aware that the Islamic Republic's greatness derives from the close bond between the establishment and the people. As a result, top lawmaker said, the adversaries use economic and psychological warfare to try and create tension between the two axes of the Islamic Republic.

However, he asserted, the public's support and spirit during the holy defense (8-year Iran-Iraq war) assisted the Islamic Republic in scaring off its adversaries.

Raisi says Iran ready to help flood-hit Pakistan

TEHRAN - President Ebrahim Raisi said on Saturday that Iran is ready to provide relief aid to Pakistan, as the monsoon floods have hit areas across the country and affected more than 30 million people.

In a phone call with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Raisi said he has tasked relevant bodies in Iran with supplying all necessary assistance to the flood-hit people as soon as possible, Press TV reported.

The Pakistani prime minister, for his part, briefed Raisi on the damage caused by the deadly floods and

hailed the Iranian government and people for their sympathy.

Sharif said Iran has always supported Pakistan in hard times.

Deaths from widespread flooding in Pakistan have passed 1,000 since mid-June, officials have said, as a minister called the country's deadly monsoon season "a serious climate catastrophe".

Flash flooding from the heavy rains has washed away villages and crops as soldiers and rescue workers have evacuated stranded residents to the safety of relief camps and provided food to thousands

of displaced people, the Guardian reported on Sunday.

Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority said the death toll from the monsoon rains had reached 1,033, with 119 killed in the previous 24 hours. It said this year's floods were comparable to those of 2010 - the worst on record - when more than 2,000 people died and nearly a fifth of the country was under water.

Sherry Rehman, a senator and the country's top climate official, said in a video posted on Twitter that Pakistan was experiencing a "serious climate catastrophe, one of the hardest in the decade".

Iran deputy FM meets Qatari counterpart

TEHRAN – Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Ali Bagheri Kani held a meeting with Qatar's Deputy Foreign Minister for Regional Affairs Mohammad bin Abdul Aziz al-Khulaifi and his accompanying delegation on Saturday evening.

The Iranian foreign ministry said the meeting focused on bilateral ties in addition to regional and international developments.

Bagheri Kani pointed to the incumbent Iranian administration's successful one-year experience in pursuing the neighborly policy and said, "The second step in the neighborly policy is promoting multilateral and regional cooperation."

The Iranian diplomat highlighted the rapid growth in the already-excellent Tehran-Doha relations, especially over the past year, saying, "We welcome Qatar's effective role in advancing the second phase of Iran's neighborly policy and bolstering multilateral regional cooperation."

Elsewhere, the deputy foreign minister for political affairs said, addressing the issue of Palestine is a human and Islamic duty on the shoulder of all regional countries and added, "Any lasting regional arrangements depend on the realization of the Palestinian nation's rights."

Bagheri Kani also pointed to attempts by the US and the Zionist regime to wipe Palestine off the political geography of the region and the world, adding, "Palestine is the key to the region's stability and lasting security; therefore, any



initiative that fails to give attention to the Palestinian nation's rights will be a destabilizing factor and will disrupt regional security."

For his part, the Qatari deputy foreign minister pointed to the historical commonalities between the two countries and emphasized the need to further expand the already-growing bilateral relations in all aspects.

He described meetings and consultations between Foreign Ministry officials of the two countries as effective in efforts to boost mutual ties.

The Qatari foreign ministry said in a statement that the meeting also included discussions on the talks in Vienna over reviving a 2015 nuclear deal officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

"During the meeting, they reviewed the bilateral relations, the developments in the ongoing negotiations to return to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with the United States,

as well as a number of issues of common interest," the Qatari statement said.

The statement added that the Qatari diplomat "stressed the importance of advancing further in order to revive the nuclear agreement which is in the interest of the security and stability of the region, expressing the State of Qatar's aspiration for a close agreement between the United States and the Islamic Republic of Iran."

The Qatari diplomat also spoke over the phone with Enrique Mora, the European Union's coordinator for Vienna talks, after his meeting with Bagheri Kani.

"During the phone call, the two sides reviewed aspects of the bilateral cooperation between the State of Qatar and the European Union, and the developments in the negotiations to return to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on Iran's nuclear program, in addition to issues of common concern," the Qatari foreign ministry

said in a separate statement.

The statement said that al-Khulaifi "expressed the State of Qatar's appreciation for the efforts exerted by the European Union to bring views of the parties closer together in order to revive the Iranian nuclear agreement; affirming that reaching a just agreement that takes into account the concerns of all parties is in the interest of the security and stability of the region."

Earlier on Thursday, Qatar's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani held Thursday a phone call with Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs Hossein Amir-Abdollahian.

Sheikh Mohammed and Amir Abdollahian reviewed bilateral relations between the two countries, developments in the negotiations to return to the Joint Plan of Action with the US, and several issues of common interest, according to the Qatari foreign ministry.

In this call, Sheikh Mohammed said, "the State of Qatar looks forward to the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States of America reaching a consensus that would contribute to reviving the nuclear deal and reaching a fair agreement for all, taking into consideration the concerns of all parties."

He "stressed that this would enhance security and stability in the region."

Qatar has been proactively offering its good offices during the nuclear talks and it has played host to a round of talks.

SPORTS

Chinese Taipei sweep Iran at 2022 AVC Cup for Women

TEHRAN – Chinese Taipei triumphed 3-0 (25-23, 25-19, 25-17) against Iran on Sunday at the PhilSports Arena to earn the right to play for fifth place at the 2022 AVC Cup for Women.

Huang Ching-Hsuan (14 points), Chen Tzu-Ya (10 points) and Kan Ko-Hui (10 points) contributed double-digit scores for Chinese Taipei's win in straight sets. Iran's Maedeh Borhani Esfahani scored 10 points in the defeat.

Iran tried to play along their opponents' pacing, showing how they could be patient in setting up their attacks from recycled plays. Pouran Zare activated the middle attack while Borhani Esfahani played off the bench and sparked the Iranian offense. She connected from the flank and backline, and at times, proving helpful in the passing unit, asianvolleyball.net reported.

Chinese Taipei needed to devise ways in order to compensate for their shorter lineup. They did so by strategizing on their service to slow down their opponents' passing unit. From here, they could afford the time and space needed to line up their blocks, and anticipate their opponents' plays. They consistently managed their plays within system and worked on the advantage that they could be more agile than their opponents.

Chinese Taipei will aim for a fifth place finish on Monday and Iran will head for their best possible finish in the 7th-8th classification against Australia.

Khosravi Vafa elected president of Iran's National Olympic Committee

TEHRAN – Mahmoud Khosravi Vafa was elected as new president of Iran's National Olympic Committee (NOC) for a four-year term on Sunday.

Khosravi Vafa narrowly won the race with 28 votes, one vote more than Mehdi Alinejad in the second round.

He replaced Reza Salehi Amiri in the post in the elections held in Tehran's Olympic Academy.

Salehi Amiri had been elected unopposed as replacement of Kiomars Hashemi after the withdrawal of nominations in January 2018.

Khosravi Vafa currently is president of Iran's National Paralympic Committee as well.

Esmailnezhad a key player of Iran in FIVB World Championship

TEHRAN – International Volleyball Federation's website praised Iranian opposite spiker Amin Esmailnezhad.

He was a member of Team Melli who defeated Argentina 3-2 Saturday night in the opening match of Pool F.

The 25-year-old Iranian opposite produced some excellent performances during this year's edition of the Volleyball Nations League, in what was his first appearance in the event, FIVB.com wrote.

The left-handed player took the VNL by storm, ranking second in points scored in the Preliminary Phase and is now one of the most popular faces on the Iranian team.

He only joined his country's national team in 2021, but immediately became a key player, adding tremendous firepower to the opposite position. He is looking to confirm just how effective he can be at the World Championship.

S. Korea win 2022 FIBA U18 Asian Championship, Iran come fifth

TEHRAN – South Korea defeated Japan 77-73 in the final match of the 2022 FIBA U18 Asian Championship on Sunday.

Earlier in the day, China won the bronze medal after 85-68 win over Lebanon in the third place match.

Iran also finished fifth the Championship after defeating the Philippines 89-72 at Azadi Basketball Hall.

Iran's Mohammad Amini scored 19 points and 10 rebounds and nine assists. Matyar Ahmadpour also scored 19 points, four rebounds, and four assists.

Mason Amos led the Philippines' stand with 22 points built on six threes, to go with five rebounds, as EJ Abadam got 18 points, five boards and three assists.

Iran edge Argentina in a thrilling five-set match in FIVB World Championship

TEHRAN – Iran edged Argentina 3-2 (22-25, 30-28, 25-18, 32-34, 21-19) in their opening Pool F match of the 2022 FIVB Volleyball Men's World Championship Saturday night.

Milad Ebadipour led Iran with 21 points while Conte Facundo earned 20 points for Argentina.

Iran are scheduled to meet Egypt and the Netherlands on Monday and Wednesday, respectively.

The competition has brought 24 competing teams in six pools of four, playing in a single round-robin format from Aug. 26 to Sept. 11.

The top two nations in each pool and the four best third-placed teams will qualify for the elimination round.

Dalkurd FF sign TM U23 attacker Fardin Rabet

TEHRAN – Fardin Rabet leaves the Iranian club Esteghlal to play in the Swedish Superettan with Dalkurd FF.

Dalkurd FF announces on their official website that striker Fardin Rabet, 20, is ready for the club.

"I am very happy to be here. I hope to be a contributing part of the team and help them. As a player with a Kurdish background, I hope to be able to help Dalkurd," says the new acquisition to the website.

"Dalkurd have a good team with many talented players. I hope that together we can help each other keep the team in the Superettan and I'm sure we can do it," continues Rabet.

The 20-year-old has played in the Iranian U19 and U23 national teams.

Zahedi scores late to help Puskas salvage draw against Debrecen

TEHRAN – In the fifth round of the NB I league, Debrecen played out a 1-1 draw at home against Puskás Akadémia.

Debreceni VSC, the team from Hajdúság, remain winless this season after this result.

The home team took the lead in the middle of the first half with Balázs Dzudzsák's penalty kick in the 21st minute.

For a long time, it looked like Debreceni would end the match without conceding a goal, but Zolt Hornyák's team mobilized reinforcements and finally equalized in the 89th minute.

Iranian attacker Shahab Zahedi, who was brought into the game in the 75th minute, scored his goal late in the match to help his team go home with a draw.

Why Israel fiercely opposes nuclear deal with Iran

TEHRAN – Mossad chief David Barnea issued a warning shot against the 2015 Iran nuclear deal while the European Union, together with Iran and the United States, were engaged in a flurry of diplomatic efforts to get the nuclear deal revived.

In a rare public assessment carried by Hebrew-language media, the Israeli spymaster said resuscitating the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), is "very bad for Israel" and would amount to a "strategic disaster" for Tel Aviv.

Barnea repeated claims often typical of Israel's political echelons that Tel Aviv will not be obligated by the terms of a revived JCPOA and will act in whatever ways it sees fit to counter the threat allegedly posed by Iran.

"The Mossad is preparing and knows how to remove that threat," Barnea said. "If we don't take action, Israel will be in danger."

On Sunday, Barnea headed to Washington to participate in behind-closed-doors meetings on the JCPOA. But before he left Israel, he drew a rebuke from Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid, laying bare the differences of opinions among Israeli leaders on how to proceed regarding

Israel's stance on the JCPOA.

These differences are not limited to the JCPOA, but rather to the assessment of the threats facing Israel. While current Israeli officials highlight what they call the Iranian threat, many influential figures in Israel, including former military officials, believe that the greatest threat Israel faces is internal lack of solidarity, not the JCPOA.

In a rare joint TV interview, five former chiefs of staff of Israel's army – Ehud Barak, Gabi Ashkenazi, Benny Gantz, Moshe Ya'alon and Gadi Eisenkot – spoke with Israel's Channel 12 about their decades-long efforts to counter Iran's nuclear program. Many of them acknowledged that a breakdown in internal social cohesion presents a greater threat to Israel than Iran becoming a nuclear threshold state, according to the Times of Israel.

Ya'alon said there has been no conventional existential threat to Israel for years. "There is an internal existential threat," he added.

Eisenkot and Barak agreed with him, and Gantz and Ashkenazi did not dissent.

Eisenkot said the thing that most endangers Israel is the lack of solidarity in Israeli society.

Barak agreed with that, saying that "all living chiefs of staff, almost all living Mossad heads and all living Shin Bet chiefs would agree on this."

He added that all the people who are involved in, or were at the head of the security apparatus, understand today that there is a more serious threat to the future of Israel than from Iran, Hezbollah, or Hamas. "This threat is what is happening within us – the risk of losing the internal cohesion, the internal solidarity and slipping into a situation with fanatics on the one hand and those who lose faith in Zionism on the other," Barak said.

Despite their acknowledgment that the greatest threats to Israel come from within not from Iran, Israeli officials continue to cover up their internal weaknesses by attacking the JCPOA. On Sunday, the Israeli prime minister issued a new barrage of criticism against the nuclear deal, calling it a "bad" one for Israel.

"This agreement is a bad one. It was not good when it was signed in 2015. Today the dangers inherent in it are even greater. It is closer to its end date, and Iran is in a different place technologically," Lapid told reporters.

foreign ministry.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran supports the process of political dialog and peaceful solutions that secure the national unity, stability and territorial integrity of Libya and ensure the rightful demands of the people of the country for Libya's development and prosperity."

Iran calls for immediate halt to violence in Tripoli

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Nasser Kanaani has expressed deep concern about the recent clashes in the Libyan capital Tripoli.

Kanaani has underlined the necessity of the clashes to stop immediately and the disagreements among parties to the conflict to

be resolved through talks while maintaining the interests and security of the Libyan people.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran invites all parties to the conflict to exercise restraint and avoid escalation of tensions and asks them to prioritize the interests of the people of Libya," the spokesman added, according to the Iranian

Borrell 'optimistic' about Vienna talks

TEHRAN – The European Union's foreign policy chief has said he is upbeat about the talks in Vienna over reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

In an interview with the Austrian Kronen Zeitung newspaper, Josep Borrell said he received the U.S. response to an Iranian response and is optimistic about the state of the talks.

"I got the response from the U.S. It is now up to Iran to respond to them," he said, thanking Austria for its role in the talks.

Austria has played host to the talks since April 2021. More than eight rounds of talks were held in Vienna, Austria's capital.

"We have arrived at the crucial

moment. I'm optimistic, it's the last millimeters," Borrell said.

It's the second time the EU express optimism about the Vienna talks. Earlier this month, Peter Stano, the spokesman for the European Union expressed optimism about reaching an agreement in the Vienna talks while saying that it hinges on the participants' decisions.

The EU submitted its "final" proposal on the Vienna talks to Iran more than two weeks ago. Iran responded to the proposal after a week. The Iranian response was immediately relayed to the U.S. and the U.S. submitted its response on Wednesday.

Iranian Foreign Ministry

Spokesman Nasser Kanaani said the country on Wednesday afternoon received the US's response to Tehran's proposals aimed at resolving remaining issues during the sanctions removal talks from the EU's coordinator of the Vienna negotiations.

Kanaani added that the Islamic Republic of Iran has started carefully reviewing the US side's response. The Foreign Ministry spokesman also said the Islamic Republic of Iran will give its response to the EU coordinator after fully studying Washington's response.

The European Union's coordinator for the Vienna talks over reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear

Iran gas revenues increase 64% in a year

From page 1 ▶ According to the official, the Islamic Republic's natural gas refining capacity has also reached 1.030 billion cubic meters in the past 12 months and 530 kilometers of new gas pipelines have also been constructed to transfer fuel to seven power plants.

Operating the largest natural gas network in West Asia, NIGC continues to expand this network into the country's most remote areas so that currently over 95 percent of the Iranian population enjoys natural gas through this huge network.

With a total length of over 36,000 kilometers, Iran's gas network is also among the world's most modern networks and it enjoys the most modern and updated measuring, transmission, and pressure boosting instruments and equipment.

This vast network of pipelines is growing



bigger and bigger every year as NIGC tries to increase the coverage of the national network to nearly 100 percent.

According to NIGC data, Iran is currently producing over 810 mcm of natural gas daily which is mostly used inside the country for the domestic sector and also as fuel for the power plants, and a small portion is also exported to neighboring countries like Iraq and Turkey.

TEDPIX falls over 5,000 points on Sunday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), dropped 5,949 points to 1.444 million on Sunday (the second day of Iranian calendar week).

As reported, over 6.485 billion securities worth 33.909 trillion rials (about \$118.35 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index dropped 4,938 points, and the second market's index lost 10,224 points.

TSE is on the four Iranian stock exchanges, the other three ones are Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME), Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX), and Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market, known as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB).

Industry Ministry inaugurates 367 projects worth nearly \$2.5b in "Government Week"



TEHRAN - Deputy Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Mehdi Niazi has announced the inauguration of 367 projects with a total investment of 710 trillion rials (about \$2.47 billion) in various sectors during the Government

Week (August 24-30), IRNA reported.

Niazi said the total investment made in the mentioned projects includes 452 trillion rials (about \$1.57 billion) plus \$520 million as well as €437 million, and the projects will create employment for 23,000 people.

According to the official, Khorasan Razavi province with 39 projects will have the biggest share of the inaugurated projects in the industry, mining and trade sectors followed by Fars province with 33 projects and Sistan-Baluchistan Province with 30 projects.

Of the mentioned projects, 28 will also be inaugurated in Tehran Province with a total investment of 89 trillion rials (about \$300 million) plus \$1.4 million and €40 million.

Signing agreements worth \$700m, result of Iran's presence in MIMS Automobility Moscow

From page 1 ▶ Iranian automakers and auto part manufacturers were showcasing their latest products and achievements in that exhibition.

Over 40 Iranian auto part manufacturing companies besides the two major Iranian automakers, Iran Khodro and Saipa, discussed bilateral cooperation with their counterparts at that international event.

On the sidelines of the event, a knowledge-based Iranian manufacturer of auto parts signed a deal with a Russian counterpart to jointly produce high-tech auto parts and equipment in Russia.

As reported, the mentioned deal has been signed for the joint production of engine control units (ECUs), immobilizers and ECU-

related sensors such as oxygen sensors, engine speed sensors, etc.

Meanwhile in a meeting with Director-General of Russian Export Center Veronika Nikishina in Moscow on Wednesday (August 24), on the sidelines of MIMS Automobility Moscow 2022, Peyman-Pak urged Russia to take the necessary measures for signing an agreement between Export Guarantee Fund of Iran and the Russian Agency for Export Credit and Investment Insurance

(EXIAR) in the coming weeks.

"If this agreement is signed, many Iranian trade companies will be able to use this insurance. This agreement is a good opportunity for traders to benefit from the two countries' export capacities to the fullest and it will be a driving force for the development of Iran and Russia's trade," the TPO head stated in the mentioned meeting.

He expressed hope that this document would be



finalized and ready to be signed within the next two weeks so that the obstacles in the way of the businessmen of the two countries can be resolved as soon as possible.

Peyman-Pak also announced Iran's readiness to establish banking relations with Eximbank of Russia and emphasized that Iran is ready to use all the banking capacities of the two countries in order to facilitate the financial transactions between the two sides.

Nikishina for her part welcomed the Iranian side's proposals, saying: "We gladly join the actions and decisions that are being made because we want to create acceptable conditions for expanding business in a competitive financial environment."

Annual honey output expected to reach 115,000 tons



TEHRAN - Director of the Iranian Agriculture Ministry's beekeeping development program said the country's annual honey production is expected to reach 115,000 tons in the current Iranian calendar year 1401 (ends on March 20, 2023).

According to Touraj Saremi, the government has paid over 145 billion rials (over \$500,000) of facilities to the country's beekeepers since last August when the government took office, IRNA reported.

Saremi noted that Agriculture Ministry has defined a five-year development plan to reform the structure of the country's

apiaries and increase the quantity and quality of honey production during the Iranian calendar year 1401 to 1405 (begins in March 2026).

"The implementation of this program requires the necessary support for providing inputs, implementing educational-training programs, and providing facilities to beekeepers. It is also required to provide apiaries with insurance coverage to reduce the risks and to ensure sustainable production," he said.

The official noted that the ministry is also pursuing opening a credit line to be able to meet part of the needs of producers in this sector within the framework of rules and regulations.

As IRNA reported, Iranian beekeepers managed to produce 112,000 tons of honey in the previous Iranian calendar year.

Due to the high quality of Iranian honey, the product is exported to many countries including China, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Germany, the United Kingdom,

Canada, Hong Kong, Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Iraq, and Lebanon.

Back in March 2020, the former director of the Iranian Agriculture Ministry's beekeeping development plan had said the country's beekeeping industry was planned to become the leading agricultural sector in the country, the leading honey producer in the region, and a strong player in the world markets.

The government has paid over 145 billion rials (over \$500,000) of facilities to the country's beekeepers since last August.

"Benefiting from up-to-date knowledge, and technology, the industry is going to provide reliable, high-quality products with greater value-added," Farhad Moshir Qafari said.

Over the past five years, Iran's beekeeping industry shifted its focus from producing only one main product, namely honey, to producing other bee secretions such as royal jelly and bee venom, Qafari said.

"Melittin is a very valuable bee venom extract that is currently imported, but the beekeeping industry has the potential to produce this substance inside," he stressed.

Commodities worth \$374m traded at IME in a week

TEHRAN- During the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday), 1,861,842 tons of commodities worth \$374 million were traded at Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME).

As reported by the IME's Public Relations and International Affairs Department, the exchange traded on its metals and minerals trading floor 1.55 million tons of commodities valued at almost \$217 million.

On this floor the IME sold 844,516 tons of cement, 445,000 tons of iron ore, 118,752 tons of steel, 127,000 tons of sponge iron, 2,175 tons of zinc, 8,600 tons of aluminum, 4,200 tons of copper, 200 tons of molybdenum concentrate and 11 kg of gold bars.

Furthermore, the IME witnessed on both domestic and export rings of its oil and petrochemical trading floor 300,644 tons of commodities worth nearly \$155 million.

Commodities traded on this floor included 82,952 tons of polymeric products, 65,600 tons of vacuum bottom, 12,000 tons of lube cut,

26,954 tons of chemicals, 36,000 tons of sulfur, 3,579 tons of base oil, 100 tons of insulation and 72,085 tons of bitumen.

The IME also traded within the same week 11,155 tons of commodities on its side market.

As previously reported, 10.311 million tons of commodities worth \$2.2 billion were traded at Iran Mercantile Exchange during the past Iranian calendar month Mordad (ended on August 22).

The exchange traded on both domestic and export rings of its oil and petrochemical trading floor 1.827 million tons of commodities valued at more than \$864 million.

The IME's customers purchased on this floor 547,600 tons of vacuum bottom, 532,275 tons of bitumen, 321,756 tons of polymeric products, 149,500 tons of lube cut, 134,590 tons of chemicals, 110,125 tons of sulfur, 22,017 tons of oil, 2,000 tons of slops wax and 1,300 tons of insulation.

Furthermore, the exchange



saw trade of 8.443 million tons of commodities worth more than \$1.4 billion on its metals and minerals trading floor.

Items traded on this floor included 4,231,000 tons of cement, 1,253,000 tons of steel, 2,374,000 tons of iron ore, 371,500 tons of sponge iron, 46,555 tons of aluminum, 114,875 tons of zinc, 25,701 tons of copper, 730 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 500 tons of coke, 60 tons of precious metals concentrate, 91 kg of gold bars and 600 dignity and fidelity SUV automobiles.

The IME also traded within the month 40,997 tons of commodities on its side market.

The value of trades at Iran

Mercantile Exchange rose 102 percent, and the volume of trades at the exchange increased 128 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), which was the highest level of growth in the history of the exchange since its establishment.

Statistical data show that in the past year, in addition to new records in the volume and value of trades of different products, 10 major records in total value and physical market trades were registered. In a way that besides the total value of trades, the volume and value of physical market trades, the volume, and value of industrial products and petrochemicals trades, the value of oil products trades and the volume and value of side market trades all hit records.

IME is one of the four major stock markets of Iran, the other three markets are Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market known also as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB), and Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX).

Electricity projects worth over \$13m to go operational in Tehran

TEHRAN - On the occasion of Government Week (August 24-30), more than 17 new electricity transmission projects with a total investment of four trillion rials (about \$13.9 million) are going to go operational in Tehran Province, IRNA reported, citing Tehran Regional Electricity Company's office of Public

Relations.

"Over 17 large-scale electricity transmission projects and substations with an investment amounting to four trillion rials are going to go operational during Government Week," the company announced in a statement.

The said projects are aimed at improving the

stability and transmission capacity of Tehran province's power grid.

New transmission stations in industrial parks are also among the projects that are going to be inaugurated in the mentioned week.

Every year, on the occasion of Government

Week numerous development projects are inaugurated in various provinces across the country.

This year too, several development projects in different sectors including water, agriculture, infrastructure, industry, and electricity are going operational across Iran.

U.S. warships sail in Taiwan Strait

From page 1 ► Beijing says such trips by American officials infringe on China's sovereignty and undermine the country's territorial integrity while seriously jeopardizing peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait.

After Pelosi's trip, the Chinese military conducted military exercises and training in the waters near the country's Taiwan Island. In other words, Beijing used its international right to defense in the face of American attempts to use Taiwan to contain China; which is largely seen as the root cause of troubles that undermine not just regional but international peace and stability.

China has also slammed Washington's disinformation campaign to intentionally cloud global opinion over what is true and what is fake; while trying to misguide the world about the status of Taiwan.

The U.S.'s disregard for international rules and norms comes despite the one-China principle being the political foundation of China-U.S. relations. The principle is very clear: there is only one China on the planet, Taiwan is part of China, and the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal government



The guided-missile cruiser Antietam in the Taiwan Strait on Sunday, in a photo released by the U.S. Navy. China said that its own forces "remain on high alert."

representing all of China.

This has a universal consensus in the international community including the United States which claims to be upholding the one-China policy but is in effect distorting the principle despite Taiwan belonging to China since ancient times.

On 1 October 1949, the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China was found, replacing the government of the Republic of China to become the only legitimate governance that represents all of China.

Resolution 2758 of the United

Nations General Assembly established the one-China principle that was widely observed by the international community. In 1971, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 2758, which undertook "to restore all its rights to the People's Republic of China and to recognize the representatives of its Government as the only legitimate representatives of China to the United Nations". This resolution made clear and settled once and for all the political, legal, and procedural issues of the representation of the whole of China, Taiwan included, in the

United Nations. It also made it clear that there is only one seat representing China at the UN, and there is no such thing as "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan".

China says the sovereignty and territory of the country have never been divided and warns will never be allowed to be divided meaning Taiwan's status as part of China's territory never changed in history and will never be allowed to change.

There are other resolutions by various UN agencies as well as Communiqués and agreements between Beijing and Washington that clearly outline the U.S. has acknowledged Taiwan as a part of China.

Perhaps it's not strange for the U.S. to break international law during its military adventurism around the world. It has been condemned for selling advanced weapons to Taipei which undermines security in a region where the U.S. military has no valid grounds to be operating.

More than \$70 billion worth of advanced weapons has been sold Taiwan. The only party that benefits from destabilizing the region is American arms manufacturers and the American politicians that are being paid and backed by the arms lobbies.

Libya sees deadly clashes

From page 1 ► Forces loyal to the Tripoli-based Government of National Accord (GNA), led by Abdul Hamid Dbeibeh exchanged heavy fire with armed groups backed by Fathi Bashagha who heads a rival government in the country's east.

According to the GNA health ministry, six hospitals were hit and ambulances were unable to reach areas affected by the clashes.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Libya says the clashes that took place in the capital, Tripoli, have damaged at least four medical centers, including a maternity hospital. In a statement published on social media, UNICEF stressed the need to protect civilians, medical facilities, and individuals.

Bashagha was selected last February to be interim Prime Minister by Libya's House of Representatives. The selection was made after Dbeibeh's government failed to organize national elections in December

2021 as per the UN-led peace plan. However, Dbeibeh refused to cede power which has now led to more than one attempt by Bashagha to enter the capital city.

The parliament said Dbeibeh's mandate had expired and it appointed Bashagha to take over. However, Dbeibeh argues parliament has no right to replace him and he would step down only after elections.

The offices of the two leaders accused each other of responsibility for the violence. Peace remains difficult to find in Libya as the political stalemate continues.

The escalation threatens to shatter the quiet relative calm Libya has seen over the last two years. The oil-rich nation was sent into crisis after NATO intervened to topple Muammar Gaddafi in 2011. The former longtime ruler was killed in the same year by NATO-led Libyan armed groups on the ground.

Anti-war activists joined a long line of people including different politicians at the

time warning that NATO is unable to bring peace to the country and accused the North Atlantic military alliance of having one eye on the country's oil in a similar fashion to Iraq.

There was little opposition to the removal of Gaddafi but there was plenty of opposition to his removal by the U.S., the UK, and France with many saying that should be left to the locals without Western interference and many of those views at the time have turned out true eleven years later.

NATO failed to seek the safety of Libyans when it attacked their country as the aftermath of the intervention shows and it is the Libyan people who have suffered since because of the North Atlantic Alliance.

The NATO intervention saw an increase in terrorist activity in the country including the presence of Daesh which the Libyan people fought out on their own. Then the political infighting took center stage and the country has not seen any political stability and real functioning services until this very day.

Europe's electricity prices hit record high as Russian supply cuts begin to bite

European electricity prices soared to new records on Friday, presaging a bitter winter as Russia's invasion of Ukraine inflicts economic pain across the continent.

The year-ahead contract for German electricity reached 995 euros (\$995) per megawatt hours while the French equivalent surged past 1,100 euros -- a more than tenfold increase in both countries from last year.

In Britain, energy regulator Ofgem said it would increase the electricity and gas price cap almost twofold from October 1 to an average £3,549 (\$4,197) per year.

Ofgem blamed the increase on the spike in global wholesale gas prices after the lifting of Covid restrictions and Russian curbs on supplies.

The Czech Republic, which holds the rotating European Union presidency, announced Friday that it would convene an EU energy crisis summit "at the earliest possible date".

Energy prices have soared in Europe as Russia has slashed natural gas supplies to the continent, with fears of more drastic cuts in the winter amid tensions between Moscow and the West over the war.

One-fifth of European electricity is generated by gas-fired power plants, so drops in supply inevitably lead to higher prices.

European gas prices on Friday reached 341 euros per MWh, near the all-time high of 345 euros it struck in March.

The war is not the only culprit in France.

The shutdown of several nuclear reactors due to corrosion issues has contributed to the French electricity price increase as power production has dramatically decreased in the country.

Only 24 of the 56 reactors operated by energy giant EDF were online on Thursday.

France, which traditionally exports electricity, is now an importer.

"Winter is going to be a tough period for all the countries in Europe," Giovanni Sgaravatti, research assistant at the Bruegel think tank in Brussels, told AFP.

"Prices will stay high, possibly they can even go higher," he said.

====Recession 'probably unavoidable'

A Bruegel study found that European Union countries have allocated 236 billion euros from September 2021 to August 2022 to



shield households and firms from rising energy prices, which began to increase as countries emerged from Covid restrictions and soared after the war.

In recent days and weeks, countries have announced energy savings campaigns to encourage the public to reduce power consumption during the winter.

Germany announced Wednesday that the temperature of public administrative offices this winter would be capped at 19 degrees Celsius (66 degrees Fahrenheit) while hot water would be shut off.

The German measures also include a ban on heating private swimming pools from September and over the six months that the decree is in place.

Finland is encouraging its citizens to lower their thermostats, take shorter showers and spend less time in saunas, a national tradition.

French households are shielded by an energy price cap until December 31 for now.

Industries are also affected by the soaring energy prices.

Factories that produce ammonia -- an ingredient to make fertilizer -- announced the suspension of their operations in Poland, Italy, Hungary and Norway this week.

HSBC bank warned in a note that "recession is probably unavoidable" in the eurozone, with the economy shrinking in the fourth quarter and the first three months of 2023.

Pakistan floods: A thousand dead, millions affected by 'horrors of climate change'

Flash floods triggered by heavy monsoon rains across much of Pakistan have killed nearly 1,000 people and injured and displaced thousands more since mid-June, officials said this weekend.

The new death toll came a day after Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif asked for international help in battling deadly flood damage in the impoverished Islamic nation.

Sharif said that 33 million people had been impacted by the floods -- about 15% of Pakistan's whole population -- and blamed "the horrors of climate change" for the natural disaster.

However, construction in flood-prone areas, endemic corruption, lack of investment in infrastructure, scant regard for the environment and poor preparedness for natural disasters also exacerbate the problems when flooding happens.

The monsoon season, which began earlier than normal this year, has lashed Pakistan with particularly heavy rains and rescuers have struggled to evacuate thousands of marooned people from flood-hit areas. The crisis forced the government to declare a state of emergency.

In response to Sharif's appeal for international aid, the United Nations planned a \$160 million flash appeal for donations which will be launched on 30 August.

The picturesque Kalam Valley in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province is one of the areas most affected by the rains and flooding. Waters from overflowing rivers swept away entire buildings, including an iconic hotel.

"The situation is pretty serious as we don't have any road link left with the rest of the province, we don't have electricity, gas and communications network and no relief is reaching here," said Muzaffar Khan, whose grocery store was swept away along with many other shops.

Pakistan's Information Minister Maryam Aurangzeb said soldiers and rescue organizations were helping people to reach safety in many districts of southern Sindh, northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, eastern Punjab and southwestern Baluchistan provinces.

"Government has sanctioned sufficient funds to financially compensate the affected people and we will not leave our people alone in this tough time," she said.

Aurangzeb asked wealthy Pakistanis and relief organizations to come forward with aid to help people affected by the flooding.

In northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, flooding destroyed the gates of a major water control system at the Swat River, leading to flooding in the districts of Charsadda and Nowshera, said Sania Safi, a top administrator in Charsadda.



"We preempted the situation and warned and forced hesitating residents to leave their homes for safety and move to relief camps established at government buildings in safe places," she said.

Safi said there was concern of further rising of the Swat and Kabul rivers, adding to the misery of residents who have already suffered the loss of lives and property.

In Nowshera district, local administrator Quratul Ain Wazir said flood waters submerged streets before the gushing waters headed toward low-lying areas.

Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif says 33 million people have been impacted by the floods -- about 15% of Pakistan's whole population -- and blames "the horrors of climate change" for the natural disaster.

"Our administration has evacuated many people and taken others to relief camps where government provided beds and food in safe buildings," she said. ... "We will use police to force those hesitant to leave their homes."

Khushal Wahab, who lives in a neighborhood in Nowshera submerged in water, said residents recalled catastrophic flooding that took place 2010 and many evacuated fearing similar danger. "People are scared," he said.

Thousands whose homes were swept away now live in tents, miles away from their inundated villages and towns, after being rescued by soldiers, local disaster workers and volunteers, authorities said.

In Baluchistan, Asadullah Nasir, a spokesperson at the provincial disaster management authority, said all 34 districts of the impoverished province were badly affected by heavy rain and flooding. He said road networks were destroyed and bridges washed away and relief was only possible by deploying helicopters, which are not often able to operate because of bad weather. He said provincial officials have confirmed 235 deaths but the number was expected to increase significantly after communications are restored.

In eastern Punjab province, the Rajan Pur district appeared to be the hardest hit along with the district of Dera Ghazi Khan. Thousands of mud and brick houses were inundated by water, most of them completely demolished or at least partly destroyed.

Residents made homeless by the flood took shelter on higher ground, where they waited for relief goods and other help.

(Source: euronews.com)

Thousands evacuated in India before implosion of giant skyscrapers

Indian authorities started evacuating thousands of people from their homes on Saturday ahead of the demolition of two 40-story skyscrapers in a residential area on the outskirts of New Delhi, officials and local media said.

The twin 103-meter tall (338-feet) apartment blocks are due to be imploded on Sunday in an operation lasting between 12 and 15 seconds -- becoming the largest structures ever demolished in the country, according to local authorities, CNN reported.

India's Supreme Court ruled last year that the builders of the two towers had violated a series of critical construction rules, ordering the buildings to be razed to the ground.

More than 3,700 kilograms (8,100 pounds) of explosives will be used to demolish the

buildings, known as Apex and Ceyane, which are located on the edge of a busy highway that links India's most populous state of Uttar Pradesh to the capital.

The towers were covered with white plastic sheets as police gathered around the area and sealed off arterial roads in preparation for the operation, local television images showed.

People living in the vicinity will have to be evacuated by early Sunday and will be allowed to return to their homes five hours after the demolition has been completed.

Despite rampant illegal building in India's cities, demolitions of large buildings are rare, and locals living close to the site said they feared damage to their properties from the force of the explosions or air pollution from the dust.

Tourism ministry seeks ways to reduce cost of traveling

TEHRAN—Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Ministry is looking at ways to help reduce the cost of traveling for domestic holidaymakers.

“We are looking for cheap tourism as traveling is everyone’s right,” IRNA quoted the tourism minister Ezzatollah Zarghami as saying on Saturday.

“Over the past year, we have recognized 20 obstacles in the path of tourism development in the country... By strengthening domestic tourism, we would be able to boost employment and improve the national economy,” Zarghami explained in a televised speech.

“Domestic travels constitute up to 80 percent of the tourism industry in many developed countries... Domestic tourism causes the distribution of wealth, when domestic tourism is strengthened, production, employment and wealth are strengthened.”

As mentioned by Zarghami, Iran has regained its pre-coronavirus status when it comes to domestic travel. “According to the forecasts of the World Tourism Organization, global tourism will return to the normal state (before the coronavirus pandemic) by the end of 2024. However, we returned to normal earlier than the forecasts of international organizations,” the minister said.

“Domestic travel has achieved some 40 percent increase compared to the pre-coronavirus period,” Zarghami said earlier this month.

According to available data, more than 56 million passengers used busses for their overland journeys across the country during the past Iranian calendar year (ended March 20).

Data compiled by the Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization indicates that 103,364,000 passengers used overland public transportation during the past Iranian year 1400. Some half of the figure, which counts 56,453,000 passengers, opted to travel by busses for their domestic journeys, the organization said.

The Islamic Republic generated \$2.5 billion in international tourism revenue over the past 12 months, mainly driven by holidaymakers from the neighboring states. In addition, traveling and tourism accounted for 3.1 percent of GDP in 2020, while the number hit 4.1 percent in 2021.

Moreover, Iran recorded about three million foreign tourist arrivals during the period. Last September, the country initiated preliminary steps for a bounce-back, restarting the



issuance of tourist visas following a 20-month hiatus, and easing COVID-19 protocols for fully vaccinated passengers.

Furthermore, the ministry seeks to develop tourism ties with neighboring countries. “Our priority is to strengthen relations with neighboring countries and now we are pursuing the project of cheap overland travels with neighboring countries,” Zarghami said.

Travelers from Iraq and Afghanistan were the main source of tourism for Iran from October 23 to December 22, 2021. Over the past couple of years, neighboring Iraq has been one of Iran’s most important markets for tourism and pilgrimage. In January, the deputy tourism chief Ali-Asghar Shalbafian announced that Iran had renewed arrangements to facilitate travels for Iraqi nationals. “For Iraqi tourists visiting Iran, a new system has been implemented to ensure their safety and comfort.”

Before the pandemic, Iran’s tourism had constantly been growing, reaching more than eight million visitors in the Iranian calendar year 1398 (started March 21, 2019). That surge, however, helped prejudices to become thick and thin.

Iran’s trump card is that the country benefits from a wide variety of travel destinations ranging from seacoasts and lush green woods to towering mountains and harsh deserts. As a wallet-friendly destination with hospitable people, Iran has long been a desired destination for nature lovers, birdwatchers, powder chasers, culture devotees, pilgrims, museum-goers, foodies, adventurers, and medical travelers, to name a few.

Experts believe that mass COVID-19 vaccinations, consecutive fam tours for foreign tour operators, easing travel procedures, and fresh strategies, altogether, suggest Iran is determined to experience a tourism rebound with a greater reliance on its numerous tourist spots of which 26 are UNESCO World Heritage, and above all, its welcoming people.

Ecotourism village to make debut in Gilan



Gilan is divided into a coastal plain, including the large delta of Sefid Rud and adjacent parts of the Alborz mountain range.

As a four-season country with pristine and beautiful nature in different parts of the country, Iran has a lot to offer nature lovers and eco-tourists. Eco-lodge units in rural areas and the heart of nature, away from the hustle and bustle of the city, smoke, and pollution, could free people from the chaos and turmoil of modern life.

In recent years, several historical mansions and rural houses across the country have been repurposed into eco-lodge units to attract more domestic and foreign tourists.

The houses represent the indigenous culture, local customs, traditions, and stories, while the guests are served delicious food with local ingredients.

The growing tendency of tourists to experience indigenous and local cultures has made them want to get closer to natural and indigenous living conditions, experiencing the old-fashioned way of life, considering that staying in these eco-lodge units is much cheaper than other accommodation centers.

Having a very diverse natural setting, Iran offers varied excursions to nature lovers. Sightseers may live with a nomad or rural family or enjoy an independent stay. The country is home to abundant historical mansions, caravanserais, bathhouses, madrasas, and other massive monuments, which can buttress its budding tourism and hospitality sectors if managed appropriately and refurbished properly.

TEHRAN—First ecotourism village is planned to be set up in the northern Gilan province, its tourism chief said on Sunday.

“There are plans to establish a first-of-its-kind ecotourism village in Keshayeh Ashkurat village,” Vali Jahani said.

With 50 eco-lodge units and several traditional and old houses, the village holds the potential to attract eco-tourists to the region, the official added.

Gilan is well-known for its rich Iron Age cemeteries such as Marlik that have been excavated over the past century. It was once within the sphere of influence of the successive Achaemenian, Seleucid, Parthian, and Sassanid empires that ruled Iran until the 7th century CE. The subsequent Arab conquest of Iran led to the rise of many local dynasties, and Gilan acquired an independent status that continued until 1567.

Sophisticated Rasht, the capital of Gilan province, has long been a weekend escape for residents of Tehran who are looking to sample the famous local cuisine and hoping for some pluvial action—it’s the largest and wettest town in the northern region.

Iran regional hub for medical tourism: President

TEHRAN—Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi on Saturday said the Islamic Republic is a regional hub for medical tourism.

Iran has a perfect position in the region and the world in terms of medical sciences as many Iranian cities are considered “health hubs,” Raisi was quoted by Tasnim as saying.

“Our scientific and medical ranking is acknowledged by international officials,” he added, saying Iran can rightly claim that it is a hub of health services.

He made the remarks at a Tehran conference to pay tribute to the Iranian medical society.

“The citizens of neighboring countries have said that while they used to travel to Europe for treatment in the past, they now



prefer to come to Iran for medical services.”

The president also noted that over 90 percent of the medicines used in Iran are produced inside the country, and Iran is now a major exporter of pharmaceutical products.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the president noted that many

foreign heads of state have hailed Iran’s progress in the medical and pharmaceutical sectors and they have expressed willingness to cooperate with Tehran in this field.

In April, Mohammadreza Tarjoman, who presides over the Health Ministry’s tourism office, said the Islamic Republic hosts an average of one million medical

tourists each year. “About one million medical tourists, mainly from the neighboring countries, arrive in Iran annually,” he said.

Experts say medical tourism in Iran is a win-win opportunity both for the country and foreign patients, as they are offered affordable yet quality treatment services and the country gains considerable foreign currency.

Amongst Iran’s trump cards are the presence of credible surgeons and physicians, cutting-edge medical technologies, high-tech medicine and diverse specializations, super affordable procedures, and finally its hospitable people.

Iran seeks to exceed its yearly medical travelers to around two million in [calendar year] 1404 (March 2025–March 2026).

Semnan eyes UNESCO tag for its stepped village

TEHRAN—Semnan province has completed an all-inclusive dossier for one of its stepped villages in a bid to nominate it for UNESCO status, the provincial tourism chief has said.

One of Iran’s three nominations for inclusion in the World Heritage list is Qala Bala village, located in Shahrud city, which has a high chance of being selected, Amir Karamzadeh explained on Sunday.

The stepped village of Qala Bala lies in a foothill area. The village has become a tourist destination because of its proximity to the Turan protected area, preservation of the historical houses, and eco-lodge units.

Iran, home to several stepped villages

Iran is home to several magnificent stepped villages, of which the most popular ones are Masouleh, Kang, and UNESCO-tagged Uramanat.

The scenic village of Masouleh is famed for its Lego-shaped earthen houses built on another’s rooftop. Home to some of the most stunning landscapes in the country, Masouleh is one of the many stepped villages that are quite common to find around the country, especially in Kordestan and around Mashhad. They have been built on a hill

so steep that the roof of one house is the pathway for the next.

Whereas practically, all stepped villages in Iran have been able to keep their rural and traditional essence, for some reason, Masouleh has evolved into a popular touristic destination that especially attracts domestic vacationers.

Thanks to a pretty developed tourist infrastructure, Masouleh is receiving the attention of all the guidebooks, portraying it as a dreamy mountain village so, slowly, it is becoming the prime destination for those travelers who have a little more than two weeks in Iran.

The village is pretty, composed of some yellowish houses which disappear behind the mist during the early morning hours. Being the most visited stepped village in Iran, Masouleh has all types of opinions.

Kang in the northeastern province of Khorasan Razavi, which has been recently inscribed on the national heritage list, with an antiquity of more than 3,000 years, is situated at a distance of some 30 km from Mashhad, the provincial capital.

The village, located on the highlands of Mount



Binalud, is also adjacent to Neishabur, known for its turquoise handicrafts and mines.

Uramanat, in the west of the country, is also another stepped village, which is considered a cradle of Kurdish art and culture from the days of yore.

Stretched on a steep slope in Uraman Takht rural district of Sarvabad County, the village is home to dense and step-like rows of houses in a way that the roof of each house forms the yard of the upper one, a feature that adds to its charm and attractiveness.

UNESCO added Uramanat cultural landscape to its list of world heritage sites in 2021.

Kordestan to host local food festival

TEHRAN—The second edition of a food festival dedicated to Kurdish food is planned to be held in Sanandaj, the western province of Kordestan on October 2, the provincial tourism chief has said.

The festival will be organized in three sections of the main dishes, appetizers, desserts, and drinks, CHYN quoted Yaqub Guylian as saying on Sunday.

Among the festival’s important goals are introducing and presenting local foods, encouraging investors to establish traditional restaurants, creating a food

branding program for Kordestan tourism, and matching and identifying the introduced foods with tourists and other nations’ tastes, the official added.

Iranian cuisine, usually dominated by fragrant herbs, varies from region to region. It principally accentuates freshness, deliciousness, and colorfulness.

Experts say that food is not merely an organic product with biochemical compositions. However, for members of each community, food is defined

as a cultural element.

No Persian meal is complete without an abundance of herbs. Every table is usually set with sabzi khordan, a basket of fresh herbs, radishes, and scallions, which are eaten raw and by the handful. Persian cuisine is, above all, about balance — of tastes and flavors, textures and temperatures.

The name Kordestan refers to the

region’s principal inhabitants. After the Turkish invasion of Iran in the 11th century CE (Seljuk period), the name Kurdistan was applied to the region comprising the northwestern Zagros Mountains. It was during the reign of Abbas I the Great of Iran’s Safavid dynasty (1501–1736) that the Kurds rose to prominence, having been enlisted by Abbas I to help stem the attacks of the marauding Uzbeks from the east in the early 17th century.

Local tourism projects inaugurated in Gilan

TEHRAN—On Saturday, 20 local tourism projects, including accommodation and recreation centers, were inaugurated in Gilan province.

Gilan’s Governor-General Assadollah Abbasi and a host of local officials, travel insiders, and private investors attended the inauguration ceremonies, ISNA reported.

The lush green province recorded some 17 million overnight stays, mainly by domestic travelers, in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21–August 22). According to the provincial tourism chief, the figure jumped 175 percent in comparison to the same period last year.

Gilan is known for its tourist attractions and warm-hearted and hospitable people. The people of Gilan from different ethnic groups, including Gilak, Talesh, and Tat, have come together and formed a very rich and diverse culture and customs.


The northern region was within the sphere of influence of the successive Achaemenian, Seleucid, Parthian, and Sasanian empires that ruled Iran until the 7th century CE. The subsequent Arab conquest of Iran led to the rise of many local dynasties, and Gilan acquired an independent status that continued until 1567.

Besides, its sophisticated capital city of Rasht has long been a weekend escape for residents of Tehran who are looking to sample the famous local cuisine and hoping for some pluvial action—it’s the largest and wettest town in the northern region. Gilan is divided into a coastal plain, including the large delta of Sefid Rud and adjacent parts of the Alborz range.

Second Announcement

The Ahvaz Pipe Mills (Public Joint Stock Company)

“Notice of Public Auction No : M / 302/1401



Ahvaz Pipe Mills (APM) (Public Joint Stock Company) intends to sell the existing imported equipment (new and brand new) of its CNG capsules production line as described in the following table **completely or partially** with the following conditions through a public auction to qualified buyer/s:

Row	Device	Manufacturer	Made in	Quantity
1	Laser Marker	Mobil-Mark Co	Germany	1
2	Cleaning, Drying and Pressure Test unit	Bonning AB Co	Sweden	4
3	Pipe cutter	Kasto Co	Germany	3
4	Spray Booth	Pink Co	Germany	1
5	Threading Machine	Rasoma Co EBZ400	Germany	3
6	Annealing Machine (Heating Operation)	Fire & Glass	Italy	1

All those interested in purchasing the above-mentioned items can refer to observe them and purchase the auction documents from the date of publication of this notice to **Wednesday, September 14, 2022**, every day, except Thursdays, Fridays and public holidays, from **8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**, to “Contracts Office, Third Floor, Central Building, Ahvaz Pipe Mills, Shohada of Ahvaz Pipe Mills Square, Karoun Industrial Zone, Ahvaz”.

- In-person visit of the participants in the auction of the above-mentioned equipment is mandatory.
- All items of this auction are **new and brand new** and totally **imported**, and the manufacturer and the country of origin of each of them are listed in the table above.
- The deposit for participating in this auction is equal to **2%** of the total amount proposed by each bidder and in the form of a bank guarantee or a guaranteed bank check in the name of the APM.
- The winner/s must pay **30%** of the machinery’s total fee **in cash** and the rest of the amount will be in form of **three-month installments**, for which, the winner/s must deliver three checks and their equivalent bank guarantees.
- The winner or winner/s of the auction is/are responsible for paying the Ahvaz Municipality levies and the value-added tax.
- The cost of publishing notices of this auction is the responsibility of the winner/s.
- In order to participate in this auction, the representatives of natural or legal persons are required to present their original power of attorney registered in one of the notary public offices of the Islamic Republic of Iran and with the necessary validity and authority from their client.
- The law governing this auction and the sale of the auctioned items to the winner/s is the law of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- The APM will be free to reject or accept any or all of the received bids without mentioning the reason.
- For more information, please refer to our website:

<http://www.apm-ir.com/> or contact the phone number: **061 3227 0031**

The Ahvaz Pipe Mills (Public Joint Stock Company)

From page 1 ▶ "In the comprehensive management of coastal areas of the Caspian Sea, there are 3 components, the first is the users or beneficiaries who live within the coastal areas, and their type of actions and reactions on the management process, the second is the organizations that are supposed to carry out a series of responsibilities to manage the coastal areas regarding the beneficiaries.

Third, the supervisors or the organizations that are controlling the performance of the first component (coastal users) and the responsible organizations.

The biggest challenge of today is the reduction of the water level of the Caspian Sea. Since 1995, the water level of the Caspian Sea has decreased by nearly 1.6 meters, and the pace of this decrease is very worrisome.

The rapid drying of coastal wetlands will cause the loss of dynamic ecosystems and the reduction of biodiversity and clear encroachment on coastal areas, which is one of our major concerns in the current situation," he explained.

But the most important point in the management of Caspian Sea coastlines is the protection of sedimentary resources such as salt marshes, brackish marshes, peatlands, wetlands, and habitats, which are at risk due to the decrease in the water level of the Caspian Sea and human encroachment, he lamented.

When the Caspian Sea shrinks, the sediment balance in the coastal wetlands is disrupted, and the height difference created between the coastal wetlands and the Caspian Sea level causes the freshwater that enters the wetlands to be discharged directly, which is currently happening in Anzali Wetland.

Therefore, any interaction if carried out without comprehensive supervision can lead to coastal crises, and these crises, if there is no follow-up management, can overshadow the social and economic infrastructure, which requires a powerful, responsible organization that is strengthened



through the judiciary, he suggested.

Largest enclosed inland body of water

The Caspian Sea is the largest enclosed inland body of water on Earth by area. It is bounded by Kazakhstan to the northeast, Russia to the northwest, Azerbaijan to the west, Iran to the south, and Turkmenistan to the southeast. The sea has an area of 600,384 square kilometers and a coastline of 7,000 kilometers.

Hosting 400 aquatic species and holding third place in terms of oil and gas reserves under its bed after the "Persian Gulf" and "Siberia" has doubled the value of this basin, while sturgeon are the most important inhabitants of the lake.

Frequent oil spills in the coastal areas of Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan, the entry of waste of over 40 factories and refineries into the sea, and the decline and extinction of the Caspian Sea aquatic species since 1990 are among the main challenges faced by the Caspian Sea.

Long-term forecasts based on climate change scenarios show 4-6 meters drop in the lake's water level over the next 30 to 50 years.

The environmental issues of the Sea have pushed the sole marine mammal inhabiting the Caspian Sea to not have suitable breeding grounds.

Covering an area of about 400 square kilometers, the Gulf of Gorgan also known as Gorgan Bay, is located near the cities of Behshahr, Gorgan, and Sari and is separated from the main water body by the Miankaleh peninsula and extends until the Ashuradeh peninsula.

The long and narrow peninsula is 48 kilometers long, and between 1.3 and 3.2 kilometers wide, which sets apart Gorgan Bay from the Caspian Sea. Four villages namely Ashuradeh, Qezel-e Shomali, Qezel-Mehdi, and Qavasatl are situated on the peninsula.

Geological evidence has shown that the Gulf of Gorgan had not yet formed about 2,600 years ago when the water level of the Caspian Sea was 22 meters high, and during the Little Ice Age, at the altitude of 24 meters, the Miankaleh Peninsula began to form and the Gorgan Bay was created.

The ecology of Gorgan Bay is affected by the Caspian Sea, adjacent rivers, and the Miankaleh Peninsula, which play an important role in the growth and reproduction of aquatic, bony, and cartilaginous fish and the attraction of migratory birds.

Covering more than 19,000 hectares, Anzali Wetland is located near the northern port city of Bandar Anzali, neighboring the Caspian Sea. The wetland was designated as a Ramsar site on June 23, 1975. It is fed by several rivers and separated from the Caspian Sea by a dune system.

The lagoon is home to submerged and floating vegetation and also extensive reed beds. It bears international importance in terms of breeding, staging, and wintering waterbirds.

Hosting 400 aquatic species and holding third place in terms of oil and gas reserves under its bed after the "Persian Gulf" and "Siberia" has doubled the value of the Caspian Sea.

Anzali Wetland has suffered huge sediment and sludge accumulation due to the entrance of domestic and agricultural sewage from five surrounding cities, which resulted in a decrease in the wetland's depth and capacity along with threatening biodiversity.

One of the most important concerns regarding Anzali Wetland is a constant drop in depth which was 11 meters before while shrinking to 1 meter or even 50 centimeters in recent years.

500 knowledge-based companies operating in free trade zones

TEHRAN – Some 500 knowledge-based companies are active in the fields of agriculture, industry, mechanical devices, medical equipment, and ICT in free zones, the secretary of the Supreme Council of Free and Special Economic Zones, has said.

Currently, there are 33 special economic zones operating throughout the country, IRNA quoted Saeed Mohammad as saying on Sunday.

A memorandum of cooperation was signed between the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology and the Supreme Council of Free and Special Economic Zones in line with the development of the innovation ecosystem in the free zones and export.

There are seven active free zones in Iran including Kish, Qeshm, Chabahar, Anzali, Aras, Arvand, and Maku.

Knowledge-based companies

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei designated the current Iranian year as "The Year of Production: Knowledge-Based and Job-Creating".

Strengthening knowledge-based companies is on the agenda, raising hope for reducing obstacles on the path to development.

The Leader has called on all Iranians, including citizens and government officials, to work hard to boost knowledge-based production and create new jobs.

So, over 7,000 knowledge-based and 1,600 creative companies have so far been registered and started operations.



tered and started operations.

The fields of biotechnology, agriculture, food industries, chemical technologies aircraft maintenance, steel, gas, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment and medicine, oil, electronics and telecommunications, information technology, and computer software are among the sectors that researchers in technology companies have engaged in.

Over 7,000 knowledge-based and 1,600 creative companies have so far been registered and started operations.

Today, the country's knowledge-based ecosystem accounts for more than 3 percent of GDP. And the figure is projected to reach 5 percent, however, the main goal is to step toward a 10 percent share in GDP, Vice President for Science and Technology, Sourena Sattari told Fars on February 13.

The share of knowledge-based companies in the country's economy has exceeded 9 quadrillion rials (about \$34 billion), and since 2019, it has experienced a growth of more than 450 percent, he stated.

The fields of aircraft maintenance, steel, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, oil, and gas are among the sectors that researchers in technology companies have engaged in, leading to import reduction.

Climate change and challenges

Part 3

However, these future effects depend on the total amount of carbon dioxide we emit. Therefore, if we can reduce the emission of greenhouse gases, we may prevent some of the worst effects.

We think about climate change caused by human activity as something that will happen in the future, but this issue is a continuous process.

Today, ecosystems and societies around the world are affected by climate change.

Climate change refers to something more than an increase in temperature and including sea level rise, changes in patterns, intensity, and recurrence of drought, water, energy, transportation, wildlife, agriculture, ecosystems, and human health.

The effects of climate change on different parts of society are related. Drought can harm food production and human health. The effects of climate change are felt in all aspects of the world in which we live.

However, the effects of climate change are uneven across countries and the world—even within a single community, the effects of climate change can vary between neighborhoods or individuals.

Long-term socio-economic inequalities can make disadvantaged groups, who often have the most exposure to risks and the least resources to respond, more vulnerable.

Iran and climate change

In the coming decades, Iran will face an increase of at least 2.6 degrees Celsius in the average temperature and a 35% decrease in rainfall.

Iran is the first country responsible for climate change in West Asia and the seventh country in the world by emitting a total of 616,741 million tons of CO2.

Iran's high-level share in greenhouse gas emissions is due to significant production and consumption of oil, and gas and rapid urbanization.

Flooding incurs loss of \$1.5b nationwide

TEHRAN – Initial estimates indicate that flash floods that started on August 7 in many parts of the country have caused as much as 440 trillion rials (about \$1.5 billion) damage so far.

The flooding hit 133 counties and 1,344 villages in 24 provinces of the country, IRNA quoted Deputy Interior Minister Mohammad-Hassan Nami as saying.

A large number of villages were completely destroyed, he said, adding that 4,151 rural houses were damaged and residents in 60 villages were relocated.

Moreover, 1,141 houses in urban areas were destroyed and more than 7,000 houses should be repaired, he noted.

The flooding also damaged agricultural lands, gardens, and farms, as well as roads, water and gas pipelines, and electricity grids.

Unfortunately, the incident claimed the



lives of 82 persons, he concluded.

Twenty percent of areas across Iran are highly prone to flooding, Khosro Shahbazi, former head of the Forests, Range, and Watershed Management Organization, said in January 2020.

According to statistics, the average rainfall in the country in the last 50 years has been 270 mm, which has decreased by 230 mm, in other words, over the past 5 decades, the average rainfall has dropped by 40 mm.

According to the World Meteorological Organization's multiannual forecast, in the next five years, Iran's average rainfall will decline by 75 percent, and the temperature rises by 50-75 percent compared to the long-term average.

According to the World Meteorological Organization, Iran's average rainfall will decline by 75 percent compared to the long-term average.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Iran finds herbal medicines effective in COVID-19 treatment

Two herbal drugs that are effective in healing the symptoms of COVID-19 have been permitted to be produced domestically.

The Food and Drug Administration has approved four domestically produced herbal medicine effective in the treatment of COVID-19 and has issued a production license for two of them.

Kianoush Jahanpour, the spokesman for the Food and Drug Administration, told IRNA on Monday that "none of these drugs are a cure for COVID-19, but they have effects to reduce the symptoms of this disease and should be further investigated."

The first herbal medicine in this collection is an oral spray containing six herbal essential oils, and according to the results of a clinical trial presented, if used, it helps to improve the pulmonary complications of coronavirus, including shortness of breath, cough, and arterial oxygenation, he explained.

تولید دو داروی گیاهی موثر در درمان کرونا در ایران

سازمان غذا و داروی ایران چهار فرآورده طبیعی تولید داخلی با اجزای گیاهی برای بهبود علائم کووید ۱۹ را تایید کرده و مجوز تولید را برای دو مورد آنها صادر کرده است.

کیانوش جهانپور سخنگوی سازمان غذا و دارو روز دوشنبه در گفت و گو با ایرنا گفت: هیچکدام از این داروها داروی درمان کووید ۱۹ نیستند اما اثراتی برای بهبود علائم این بیماری داشته اند و باید مراحل بررسی بیشتر را طی کنند.

وی گفت: اولین داروی گیاهی از این مجموعه یک اسپری دهانی حاوی ۶ اسانس گیاهی است و با توجه به نتایج کارآزمایی بالینی ارائه شده در صورت مصرف به بهبود عوارض ریوی کووید ۱۹ شامل تنگی نفس، سرفه و اکسیژن رسانی شریانی کمک می کند.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON AUGUST 28

New cases	1,693
New deaths	44
Total cases	7,523,662
Total deaths	143,728
New hospitalized patients	398
Patients in critical condition	1,133
Total recovered patients	7,284,077
Diagnostic tests conducted	53,759,630
Doses of vaccine injected	154,008,811



AUGUST 29, 2022

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

He who is greedy is disgraced; he who discloses his hardship will always be humiliated; he who has no control over his tongue will often have to face discomfort.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon: 13:05 Evening: 19:55 Dawn: 5:07 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:35 (tomorrow)

Iranian calligraphy (khattati, khoshnevisi)

Part 8

The popular nastaliq script has all the qualities required for fine handwriting, conforming to all the above-mentioned principles and rules of calligraphy.

It is easily legible and can be written quickly and very compactly, which enables more material to be contained in fewer lines and pages.

The rules for writing nastaliq include the following: The letters and words have prescribed dimensions. Roundness predominates, only 1/3 to 1/6 of the strokes being straight.

The round strokes have a downward slope from right to left. The pen is moved more freely and more easily than in naskh.

The semicircles in nastaliq can be slightly varied: the flourishes of final syn, saad, and nun are identical, those of final haa, ayn, and qaf are of similar shape, and those of final laam and yaa are drawn in a similar way.

The dimensions of the letters are determined by their point measures (made with the pen). The starts of most initial and detached letters are written with the right edge of the nib, for example the cogs (dandana) of syn, the top of ra, the beak (menqar) of jim, the top of an inverted final yaa, the start of a word such as bia, while in other scripts the starts of these letters are written with the full breadth of the nib.

Whereas in thulth and some other scripts with large letters the blank spaces between the written matter are so extensive that they have to be filled up with oversized pointings and harakat and with decorative frills, nastaliq is so compact that there is barely room for pointings and therefore no need for harakat and frills to fill voids.

However, there is no risk of confusion between similar-looking letters and words. The harakat are only used in nastaliq when necessary to remove ambiguity.

Words are not joined in nastaliq, except in inscriptions and calligraphy albums (moraqqa'at). In terms of regularity, clarity, and balance nastaliq equals naskh and in writing speed taliq, but in beauty and grace it is superior to both.

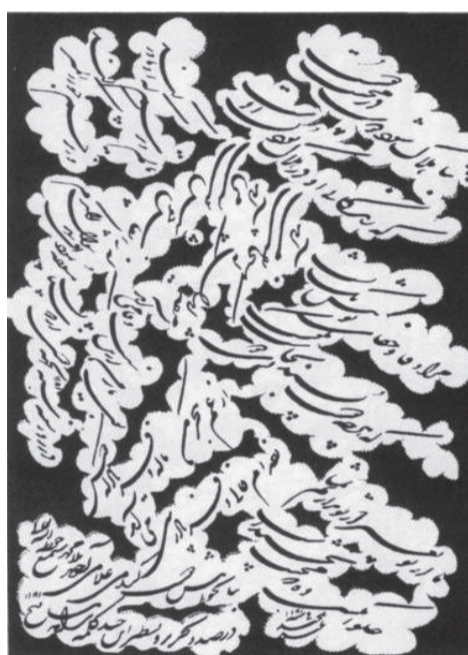
It is a popular belief that the letter shapes of nastaliq were inspired by nature or music: the vertical strokes by trees and flowers, the round strokes by the undulations of hills and meadows or of treble and bass in singing, the elongations by fields and plains or by musical pauses, the sinuities of letters and words by the bodily contours of animals, birds, and in particular humans, the sentence arrangement by flights of birds or clusters of flowers.

Human features and postures are most likely to have been a source of inspiration because in Persian poetry the beautiful features of the beloved are often likened to letters of the alphabet.

The beauty and strength of nastaliq lie in the balanced distribution of thick and thin, open and closed, and short and tall strokes, in the graceful shaping of the letter and letter combinations, and in the symmetry and consistency with which the letters and words are juxtaposed.

The letters and words may even seem to dance, sometimes holding hands, sometimes embracing. Integration of a fine piece of calligraphy, such as a familiar verse or proverb written in nastaliq, with a painted illustration or an illuminated background can produce very beautiful works of art.

From the early 15th century onward Persians



Shekasta-nastaliq, by Darvish Abd al-Majid Taleqani, 1767-68.

did most of their writing in nastaliq. The Muslim Indians, Ottoman Turks, Egyptians, and others also recognized the merits of nastaliq and adopted it to some extent.

The great age of nastaliq in Persia was the first half of the Safavid period, which witnessed the work of the great calligraphers Soltan-Ali Mashhadi (d. 1520) and Mir Emad Hasani Sayfi (killed 1615).

Most branches of art in Persia, including calligraphy, were set back by the troubles and wars of the 18th century, but they afterwards made some recovery.

Calligraphy, and therewith nastaliq, again received attention, particularly in the second half of the 19th century, when such masters as Mirza Mohammad-Reza Kalhor (1829-1892-93) produced excellent work.

In the 20th century the use of nastaliq declined. After World War II, however, interest in calligraphy and above all in nastaliq revived, and some outstandingly able masters of the art have since then emerged.

Large numbers of people now take lessons in it, mainly at classes run by the Anjomane Khoshnevisan-e Iran (Iranian Calligraphers Association), which has branches in all the chief towns.

Modern nastaliq is essentially the same as that which Mir Emad described in the 17th century, but the calligraphers of the 19th and 20th centuries have of course added their own artistic touches.

Shekasta-nastaliq and shekasta

The increasing use of nastaliq and consequent need to write it quickly exposed it to a process of gradual attrition.

The shekasta-nastaliq which emerged in the early 17th century and spread in the later Safavid period consequently differed from proper nastaliq only in so far as some of the letters were shrunk (shekasta, lit. "broken") and detached letters and words were sometimes joined.

Manuscripts from this phase show signs of the influence of shekasta-taliq; while having the appearance of a shrunken form of nastaliq, they also contain features of taliq due to their being written by scribes who had been trained in taliq.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued.

Iran's "Unrest" crowned best short at Moscow documentary festival

From Page 1 ▶ In the feature competition, "Mr. Tang" by the Chinese filmmaker Xia Su and Hongyu Su was picked as best film.

Sergey Dvortsevov from Russia and Zoe Schmederer from Germany and Ammar Aziz from Pakistan were members of the jury for this category.

"Despite taking place in a fading world, this beautifully shot, slow-paced film is full of life," the jury said about "Mr. Tang" and added, "It depicts a universal issue in an intimate portrait."

"Mr. Tang" points to a makeshift brick wall built by the authorities that separates his property from the neighboring parcel, which has already been expropriated. As one of the last residents of the neighborhood, the 94-year-old is resisting the "revitalization of the old city", meaning the demolition of the aging buildings. Pressure from the authorities steadily increases as he watches his wife's health deteriorate with Alzheimer's.

"MR. TANG" is a sensitive film about love and resistance and the portrait of an impressive man who



A scene from "Unrest" by Mohammad-Sadeq Esmaeili.

won't be upset by anything, not even by the threat of losing the house he has lived in all his life.

Victoria Fiore was named best director for "Hide and Seek" ("Nascondino").

The Italian-UK production follows four years in the life of nine-year-old Antoni and his

grandmother Dora in Naples during a critical state crackdown on crime that threatens Antoni's future with forced removal and imprisonment.

The audience award went to "Jason" by Dutch filmmaker Maasja Ooms.

Ooms closely follows Jason as he struggles with the psychological

effects of a traumatic childhood, which were only intensified when he was taken into juvenile residential care at the age of 16. During intense therapy sessions, it becomes clear how much he has been harmed, and how far-reaching the consequences are when wrong decisions are made in the youth care system.

Thurrock festival spotlights emerging Iranian filmmakers

TEHRAN – The Thurrock Film Festival in England has put its 2022 spotlight on movies by emerging Iranian filmmakers.

Twelve shorts have been selected to be screened in a special section named "Emerging Voices from Iran", the organizers have announced.

"Respecting the Court" by Ali Bayat is one of the films picked to be reviewed at the festival, which is currently underway in Thurrock, a unitary authority area in the English ceremonial county of Essex.

The film is about a group of teenage boys with nothing more than an empty bag in hand, lacking self-vision, who set a path towards an undetermined future, knowing not what awaits them.

"12 O'clock" is another film on the lineup. In this visually-gripping suspense drama directed by Sajjad Soleimani, a woman gets ready to appear in court on the day of her divorce hearing, but as she gets closer to the appointed time, she decides to stay at home and play a

deadly game with her son.

Among the film is also "Shadow of the Fox" by Nushin Meraji. Shahram's wife has left, and while dealing with a terrible mental crisis, he must try to answer his teenage daughter's questions.

Another highlight of the lineup is "The Fence" by Ali Mehrizadeh.

The film follows Yaghub, an immature teenager who thinks and acts like a child. He is used by his father to sacrifice his sister's goat. This causes him to suffer and awakens his conscience. He, therefore, decides to stop the extravagance of the villagers - especially his father - in encroaching upon nature. Along the way, mysterious and cosmic forces enter the village to fulfill Yaghub's will.

The lineup also includes "Aba". Directed by Mehdi Barzoki, the film tells the story of Aba, a 50-year-old woman who cares for elderly women. She decides to die voluntarily to escape loneliness and old age.

"Mountain Carrier" by Taha Khanjani will also



"Shadow of the Fox" by Nushin Meraji.

be showcased. It is about a simple kolbar, a cross-border laborer who carries loads on his back in the mountains. He learns that his son Farhad has been missing for two days. Suddenly their group is hit with dire consequences.

Emerging Voices from Iran also features "The Book" by Farzad Foroughi, "Mahi" by Hoda Ahmadi, "Pick" by Shahu Ahmadi, "Soha" by Mohammad Borzouipour, "Children of Wild Orchid" by Farshad Mohammadi and "Dark Room" by Vahid Aalami.

"Heroes of the Frontier" published in Persian

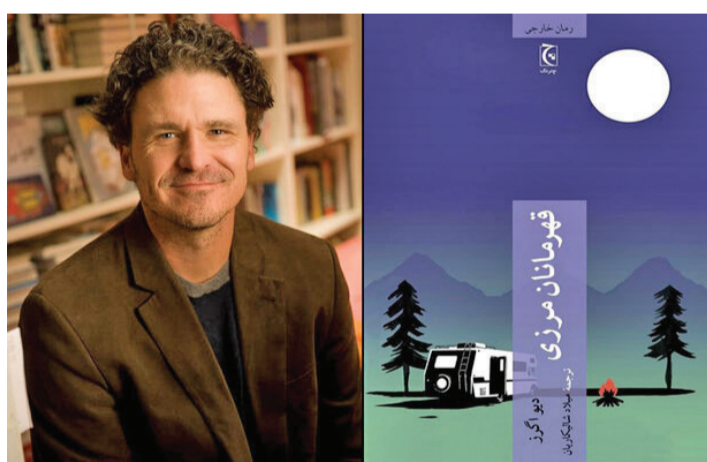
TEHRAN – "Heroes of the Frontier", a novel by American writer Dave Eggers, has been published in Persian by Chatrang.

Milad Shalakaran is the translator of the novel originally published in 2016.

It is a captivating, often hilarious novel of family, loss, wilderness and the curse of a violent America.

Josie and her children's father have split up, she's been sued by a former patient and lost her dental practice, and she's grieving the death of a young man senselessly killed.

When her ex asks to take the children to meet his new fiancée's family, Josie makes



A combination photo shows Dave Eggers and the front cover of the Persian edition of his novel "Heroes of the Frontier".

a run for it, figuring Alaska is without a passport. about as far as she can get Josie and her kids, Paul and

Ana, rent a rattling old RV named the Chateau, and at first, their trip feels like a vacation: They see bears and bison, they eat hot dogs cooked on a bonfire, and they spend nights parked along icy cold rivers in dark forests.

But as they drive, pushed north by the ubiquitous wildfires, Josie is chased by enemies both real and imagined, past mistakes pursuing her tiny family, even to the very edge of civilization.

"Heroes of the Frontier" is the darkly comic story of a mother and her two young children on a journey through an Alaskan wilderness plagued by wildfires and a uniquely American madness.

Tehran's oral history as told by a local



A review of the book "Seyyed Nasr al-Din"

The way of life in Tehran in the 1960s and 1970s had some unique mannerisms and customs, some of which were impacted by the ancestors' approach, and others of which depended on the circumstances of the time and caused Tehran residents to choose different ways of life in accordance with

their specific cultural, social, and economic circumstances.

As a result, some famous neighborhoods stood out from other neighborhoods by having their own distinctive culture. The Sed Nasr al-Din neighborhood, which is now in the center of the city, was once one of Tehran's central neighborhoods and has had a distinct social culture ever since, and this book is about this neighborhood and the residents.

The book's story is written in a style that combines memories with fiction. The author provides a brief overview of himself, the home where he was raised, and the people who lived there in the book's introduction. The tenants, who are comparatively long-term, are at the center of the story, as well as

their habits and everything that happens to them during that time.

The story's characters and character development are excellent, especially those of "Azizjoon," the main character's aunt and the home's owner, "Ousta Bagher," and "Mashhadi Hussain."

The story has a very exciting and amazing tone, which makes reading it even more enjoyable. The author did his best to portray daily life in Tehran from various angles, including the people's jobs, art and theater, obsolete tools, and even their diets.

Along with the nostalgic memories that one often misses, the author also discusses some of the societal issues of the era in a humorous tone, making it seem less bitter and possibly humorous.